R E M A R K S

In the Office Action, claims 9-15 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by US Patent 4,389,043 to Takamatsu et al for the reasons stated in the Office Action.

Claim 9 has been amended by this response to include the limitation contained in claim 10, and claim 10 has been cancelled.

The present claimed invention recites a display instrument including at least two illuminated pointers which are located one on top of the other. Each pointer is composed of a head and a pointer lug. The head and pointer lug are rotatable independently of one another about a common display axis. The illuminated pointers are formed of a light-guiding material. Each illuminated having a light entry face and light injected there exiting on a side of the pointer lugs facing a viewer. At least two of the illuminated pointers (4, 6) include a common light source, and light is fed to the illuminated pointers (4, 6) via a light splitter (10). A drive shaft (7) of one of the pointers serves as a light guide and a portion of the drive shaft (7) is embodied as the light splitter (10).

Takamatsu discloses an apparatus for illuminating instrument pointers including a dial board having a shaft hole, pointer shafts provided perpendicularly to a pointer shaft drive unit and projecting through the shaft hole to the front of the dial board. The apparatus includes a light conductive member and a plurality

of transparent pointer elements mounted on the pointer shaft. Light is emitted and passed through the light conductive member and on to the pointers which are thus illuminated.

However, Takamatsu et al neither suggest nor disclose the drive shaft serving as a light guide as in the present claimed invention. The drive shafts in Takamatsu et al are clearly labeled with reference numerals 30 (Fig. 1) and 41 (Fig. 4). Neither drive shaft 30 nor drive shaft 41 of Takamatusu et al function as a light guide.

As shown in Figure 1 of Takamatusu et al., light is emitted by the light source 23 through a conductive member 28 into a hour hand namely a collar 33a and a pointer 33b. The collar 33a is not the drive shaft 30 nor does it function as a drive shaft. Rather the collar 33a of Takamatusu et al fixes the pointer 33b to the shaft 30. In no way is the collar 33a the same element as the drive shaft, and thus the drive shaft of Takamatusu et al cannont be a light guide as the shaft 30 does not lead any light. This is unlike the drive shaft of the present claimed invention which serves as a light guide.

Takamatusu et al also neither disclose nor suggest having a portion of the drive shaft embodied as the light splitter, as claimed in amended claim 9 of the present invention.

Additionally, the cylindrical collar 44a as shown in Figure 4 of Takamatusu et al is not analogous to the drive shaft of the present claimed invention. The collar 44a in Takamatusu at al is

press-fitted to the shaft 41 to mount hour hand 44 on the shaft 41. Since the collar 44a merely mounts the hour hand 44 to the shaft 41 it is clear that the collar 44a is not itself the drive shaft.

Furthermore, Takamatusu et al neither disclose nor suggest an upper illuminated pointer (4) being plugged onto the light splitter as claimed in claim 13 of the present invention. In the present claimed invention the term "plug" means that the upper pointer (4) is fixed to the light splitter like a plug or dowel or screw anchor. In contrast, the light splitter D of Takamatsu is plugged or better fixed with the lower pointer 33. Since the lower pointer 33 and the upper pointer 34 are independent in their movement the upper pointer 34 of Takamatusu et al cannot be plugged to the light splitter D. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Takamatusu et al neither disclose nor suggest the limitations of claim 13.

Additionally, Takamatusu el al neither disclose nor suggest a lower of said illuminated pointers has a light entry face which picks up laterally exiting light, as claimed in claim 14 of the present invention. Rather, in Takamatsu light passed though the light splitter is picked up by light entry faces situated on the bottom of the upper hands 34, 46. Thus, the light entry faces of Takamatusu et al could only pick up axially exiting light. This axially exiting light is then turned internally in a lateral direction towards the pointers. This is unlike the present invention as claimed in claim 14 in which the light entry face picks up laterally exiting light.

Furthermore, Takamatusu et al neither disclose nor suggest having the light entry face embodied on an inner generated surface in the head as claimed in claim 15 of the present invention. Takamatsu shows a light entry face of pointer 33 on the lower surface (the bottom of pointer 33 in Fig. 2 near reference sign 33a). By having a light entry surface positioned on the bottom of the pointer 33 as in Takamatusu et al, the light entering the entry face has not yet passed the light splitter. This is unlike the present invention as claimed in claim 15 wherein the light collected by the light entry face has already passed through the light splitter.

In view of the above remarks and amendment to claim 9 which incorporates the limitation of claim 10 therein, it is respectfully submitted that since Takamatusu et al neither disclose nor suggest having a drive shaft serving as a light guide nor that a portion of the drive shaft is embodied as the light splitter, the present invention as claimed in claim 9 is not anticipated by Takamatusu et al. As claims 11-15 and 17-20 are dependent upon claim 9 it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also not anticipated by Takamatusu et al. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that the rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Takamatsu in view of US Patent 6,224,221 to Glienicke on the grounds set forth in the Office Action.

Glienicke is cited for having a frustum-shaped coaxial depression (13), a generated surface of frustum (15) serving as a reflection face for laterally exiting light and a base face A for axially exiting light. However, in Glienicke light exits the light at base face (A) axially and thereafter leaves the device. The present invention as claimed in claim 16 discloses that the light splitter acts before the light is led to the single pointers.

Additionally, Glienicke neither discloses nor suggest having a drive shaft of one of the pointers serve as a light guide as in the present claimed invention. Also, Glienicke neither discloses nor suggest having a portion of the drive shaft embodied as the light splitter as in the present claimed invention.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Glienicke when taken alone or in combination with Takamatusu et al adds nothing that would make the present claimed invention unpatentable. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that the rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

In the event there are further issues remaining in any respect the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone attorney to reach agreement to expedite issuance of this application.

Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentably and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this amendment is believed

to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, enter this amendment, and to allow all of the claims in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 2, 2003.

Dated: May 2, 2003

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